

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Thomas R. Cech et al.

Application No.: 09/721,506

Filed: November 22, 2000

For: HUMAN TELOMERASE
CATALYTIC SUBUNIT

Art Unit: 1651

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please ~~cancel~~ claims 1-20 without prejudice to subsequent renewal or future prosecution.

Please ~~add~~ new claims 21-52 as follows.

21. A synthetic or recombinant telomerase reverse transcriptase protein, or a variant thereof, or a fragment thereof, wherein the protein, variant or fragment contains a sequence that is at least 80% identical to SEQ. ID NO:2, and has telomerase catalytic activity when complexed with a telomerase RNA.

22. A composition comprising the protein, variant or fragment of claim 21, and further comprising an RNA, wherein the protein, variant or fragment and the RNA form a telomerase ribonucleic acid complex.